Applicant Appl. No. Examiner

Leachman 10/664,221 Ramirez, R. O.

Examiner : Ramirez, R. C Docket No. : 705397.4009

REMARKS

In the office action the examiner rejected claims 2-6, 9-13, 19 and 22-24, objected to claims 16-18, 25 and 26, and indicated that claims 3-5, 11-13, 16-18, 25 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC § 112 and to include all the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Without acquiescing to the examiner's rejections under 35 USC §§ 102 and 103 and to move this case to allowance, applicant has rewritten claims 3, 11 and 25 (included the "base" limitation from claim 24) in independent form including all the limitations of the base and intervening claims and have further amended claims 3 and 11 to overcome the rejection under 35 USC § 112. Claims 3-6, 10-13, 16-19, 23 and 25-26 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the examiner's rejections and objections to the claims.

Applicant Appl. No. Examiner Docket No. Leachman 10/664,221 Ramirez, R. O. 705397.4009

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 3-6, 10-13, 16-19, 23, and 25-26, are in condition for allowance. Should minor matters remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (949) 567-6700.

Respectfully submitted,
ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE LLP

Dated: February 8, 2005

Kenneth S. Roberts Reg. No. 38,283

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP 4 Park Plaza, Suite 1600 Irvine, CA 92614-2558 Tel. 949-567-6700

Fax: 949-567-6710

Customer Number: 34313